

V. REMARKS

The specification is objected to because of informalities. The specification is amended as indicated above to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are rejected on the grounds of nonstatutory obviousness-tight double patent in as being unpatentable over claims 1, 3, 5, 6, 8, 11, 13 and 15-17 Of the US Patent Number 6,983,681. A Terminal Disclaimer is filed herewith to overcome the rejection. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Iwata (U.S. Patent No. 6,983,681). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present application was assigned to Daido Metal Company Ltd. and the assignment of the same was recorded with the United States Patent and Trademark Office on March 10, 2004, on reel 015080, frame 0574. The 681 patent is also owned by Daido Metal Company Ltd. Applicants assert that the invention of the present application and the invention encompassed by the 681 patent were commonly owned at the time the present invention was made. Furthermore, Applicants hereby filed a Terminal Disclaimer.

Applicants believe that, at least for the reasons mentioned above, the rejection is overcome.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Hermann (U.S. Patent No. 3,839,209) in view of United Lab Equipment, Inc. and Wikipedia. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to a sliding member provided with a sliding layer containing bismuth powder and/or bismuth alloy powder, metal powder and a solid lubricant. The metal powder contains at least one of a copper-based alloy and an aluminum-based alloy.

As described in the present specification, paragraph [0015], use of the metal powder containing at least one of a copper-based alloy and an aluminum-based alloy

attains the increased thermal conductivity and improved anti-seizure properties.

Hermann discloses an organometallic reticulated anti-friction composition obtained from at least one solid epoxy resin containing terminal epoxy groups, lead powder, bismuth powder, mixtures thereof, and alloys comprising lead, bismuth, lead and bismuth, and mixtures thereof (see claim 1). The alloy may be selected from at least one member of the group consisting of Pb-Bi, Pb-Sn, Bi-Sn, Pb-Bi-Sn, Bi-Sn-Pb, **Pb-Sn-Pb-Cu**, Pb-Sn-Cu-Cd or Pb-Sn-Sb-Cu-Ni (see claim 7), a solid lubricant may be contained in the composition (see claim 8). Hermann teaches that the composition has great adherence to metallic bases or supports, excellent mechanical properties, high chemical and high resistance to oil and water (see column 11, lines 19-25).

However, Hermann or the others cited references do not disclose or suggest a sliding member composed of components specified in claim 1 of the present application, or the advantages attained by use of the metal powder described therein.

It is respectfully submitted that none of the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 as amended and discussed above. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

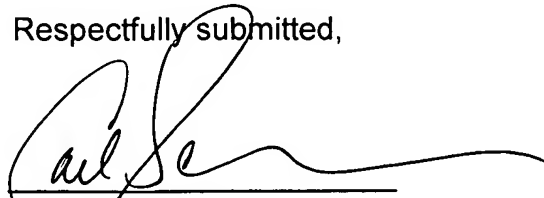
Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or

if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the
Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for
any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: November 13, 2006

By:


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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Terminal Disclaimer

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